

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/805,002

Examiner

Sean P. Shechtman

Applicant(s)

YOKOMORI ET AL.

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/9/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 23-36.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/160,208.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Application/Control Number: 10/805,002	Page 2
Art Unit: 2125	

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 23-36 are presented for examination. Claims 23, 26 and 28 have been amended. Claims 33-36 have been added.

Priority

2. Objection withdrawn in light of the amendment filed May 9th 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. Rejections withdrawn in light of the amendment filed May 9th 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Rejections withdrawn in light of the amendment filed May 9th 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 23-36 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Nakamura teaches converting a machining program for a first device into a machining program for a second device.

And, Kobayashi teaches a manufacturing management system and method for controlling a production line, said line having a series of a plurality of pieces of mounting equipment each of which has a parts supply unit.

Neither Nakamura nor Kobayashi, taken either alone or in obvious combination disclose a production system including a production line being a series of a plurality of mounting apparatuses each of which has a parts supply unit having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: obtaining differences between stored NC data that had been stored prior to the generated NC data and generated NC data from the production schedule.

Application/Control Number: 10/805,002	Page 3
Art Unit: 2125	

Referring to claim 23, neither Nakamura nor Kobayashi, taken either alone or in obvious combination disclose an NC data management method for use in a production system including a production line being a series of a plurality of mounting apparatuses each of which has a parts supply unit having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: obtaining, in terms of production parameters, differences between the NC data acquired from the production schedule and NC data that was used by the parts supply unit for supply of parts.

Referring to claim 28, neither Nakamura nor Kobayashi, taken either alone or in obvious combination disclose an NC data management method for use in a production system including a production line being a series of a plurality of mounting apparatuses each of which has a parts supply unit having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: obtaining, in terms of production parameters, differences between the NC data acquired from the production schedule and NC data that was used by the parts supply unit for supply of parts.

Referring to claim 33, neither Nakamura nor Kobayashi, taken either alone or in obvious combination disclose an method for configuration management and control of the numerical controlled machines in a circuit board production line having all the claimed features of applicant's instant invention, specifically including: incorporating data from a parts library with NC data generated according to the production plan, comparing the data in the parts library with inspected NC data fed back from the circuit board production line and generating a difference file.

Also, there is no motivation to combine Nakamura and Kobayashi to meet these limitations. Claims 24-27, 29-32, 34-36 depend from claims 1, 28 and 33 respectively and are

Application/Control Number: 10/805,002	Page 4
Art Unit: 2125	

therefore also allowable. It is for these reasons that applicant's invention defines over the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean P. Shechtman whose telephone number is (571) 272-3754.

- The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am-6:00pm, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P. Picard can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/805,002	Page 5
Art Unit: 2125	

SPS



Sean P. Shechtman

July 18, 2006